

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MARR, TU

SUBJ: MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HASAN ISIK

1. SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW IN APRIL 15 ISSUE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE MAGAZINE OUTLOOK (TRANSLATED FROM TURKISH LANGUAGE YANKI) MINDEF HASAN ISIK ANSWERED QUESTIONS CONCERNING TURKEY'S MILITARY PLANS AND ITS ROLE IN NATO. END SUMMARY

2. REDUCTION OF TURKEY'S GROUND FORCES: ISIK SAID TURKEY CANNOT PRESENTLY CONSIDER THE REDUCTION OF THE ARMY'S ENLISTED FORCES UNTIL IT ACQUIRES MORE MODERN WEAPONS. THIS MODIFICATION WILL BE DEPENDENT ON TURKEY'S FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ABILITY TO OBTAIN THESE WEAPONS. AFTER 1978, HOWEVER, THE NATION'S DEMOGRAPHIC INCREASE WILL NECESSITATE

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DRAFT REFORMS FOR BOTH ENLISTEES AND RESERVE OFFICERS.

RECENTLY, THE PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY FOR RESERVE OFFICERS WAS REDUCED FROM 18 TO 16 MONTHS, AND CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO A FURTHER TWO-MONTH REDUCTION. EXCESS RESERVE OFFICERS MAY BE REQUIRED TO SERVE IN NONMILITARY FUNCTIONS.

3. TURKEY'S MILITARY POWER: THE MINISTER STATED THAT NATIONAL POWER CANNOT BE MEASURED BY WEAPONS ALONE BUT MUST BE VIEWED IN ITS LARGER SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND MORAL CONTEXT. THE COUNTRY'S POWER IS ALSO REFLECTED IN ITS SENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY.

4. THE FUTURE OF TURKEY'S WAR AND AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES: ISIK COMMENTED THAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH EXCEEDS THE NATION'S CAPABILITIES WOULD CREATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO FUTURE PLANS FOR CREATING A DOMESTIC AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS PART OF THE QUESTION TO WHICH HE WAS RESPONDING.

5. NATO: MINDEF SAID THAT DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS AMONG ALLIES ARE TO BE EXPECTED BUT VOICED WARNING THAT MEMBER NATIONS MUST NOT BE INDIFFERENT TO INTRA-ALLIANCE RIVALRIES (E.G., GREECE AND TURKEY) WHICH WEAKEN NATO'S EFFECTIVENESS.

6. MBFR: ISIK EXPRESSED LONGSTANDING TURKISH CONCERN THAT WARSAW PACT FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM CENTRAL EUROPE MUST NOT QUOTE BECOME AN ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ELEMENT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE (NATO) REGION UNQUOTE, AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT TERMS OF ANY AGREEMENT REACHED WOULD PREVENT THIS FROM OCCURRING.

7. CREATION OF A NATIONAL FORCE: MINDEF SAID THAT OTHER NATO MEMBERS HAVE FORCES UNCOMMITTED TO NATO. TURKEY ALSO NEEDS TO ENLARGE ITS PRESENT SMALL UNCOMMITTED FORCE. THIS MUST BE DONE BECAUSE OF QUOTE TURKEY'S SURROUNDINGS UNQUOTE.
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